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Eastern District of California

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STOCKTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TIMOTHY YOURCHECK, 45, of Stockton, Calif., pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge Morrison C. England Jr., to receiving and distributing material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

The investigation in this case was undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). PSC is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet, and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, on March 8, 2007, Sacramento County Sheriff's deputies identified YOURCHECK as a person offering child pornography through the Internet. Upon executing a search warrant at the defendant's house on April 24, 2007, agents found and seized his computer. On that computer's hard drive, agents found 72 movie files containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct that had been downloaded from the Internet. In a statement given to sheriff's deputies, YOURCHECK admitted to using his computer to download, save, and watch videos containing child pornography.

YOURCHECK is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge England on February 5, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. The maximum statutory penalty this violation is no less than five years and up to 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of no less than five years and up to life. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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